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A THESIS

For The Degree of Master of Letters.

School Government.

Geo. F. Fenower.

MASCOUTAH, ILL.

1883
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To

Professor Edward Snyder, M. A.,

Whose Interest

In My Welfare While A Student

And My Success As A Teacher

Has Been Proven

By Many An Act of Kindness And

Word of Encouragement,

This Thesis Is Dedicated,

as

A Pledge of

The Lasting Esteem

of

The Author.

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PREFACE.

In my Baccalaureate Thesis I attempted a defense of popular education against the charge made by an educational writer of this state that an increase of crime is a necessary evil connected with increasing popular intelligence in our country. I claimed the intellectual culture dispensed by the common schools tended rather to strengthen the bulwarks of virtue without assuming however that it is the most potent preventive of vice and crime.

It is in the discipline and moral training of the young that we should trust; and upon our labor is that portion of our school duties it is that we should base our hope for a reinforcement of virtue in the masses. It is my purpose in this thesis to point out some of the errors often committed in school management resulting from a narrow conception of its ends, to deduce a few of the principles upon which the gov-

Foreword

privileges of manhood and citizenship. Children should learn
school what they will need to know when they shall have become
men and women, and the discipline of the school should
tend toward the formation of those habits of thinking and
of acting which will make them worthy members of
society. And if they are trained to exercise such qualities
as these, to discern the right and pass a sentence of condemnation upon
evil-doers, they have laid the foundation of a praiseworthy character. And since this is a utilitarian age and a cry for the practical in the school is made
we may say that nothing is more practical in its bearing
upon the future needs of the people and results than the
training in self-control. Especially is this true in our country.
In a monarchy or despotism, the policy of the government is to
have the people trained from infancy to yield a ready and unquestioning obedience to the authorities. But in a government like

depends for its integrity upon the individual and aggregate moral-
ity of its citizens it is essential that every means be used to fit
the masses for assuming the position of a sovereign citizenship.
In this respect a great demand is made upon our public schools
for in them many of our leading men secure whatever of primary
instruction they possess, and they are the schools from which
the masses must graduate. They are also the places in which the young
minds are first trained to act in combination. In the school-room
the child first finds himself a factor in a unit or a social organ-
ization of his peers. It is in his conduct and training as a mem-
ber of an organized institution that engages our attention at this
time. The needs of school discipline have been [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] stated. [illegible]
are closely connected with and essential to the moral culture
of the individual. School discipline [illegible]
and an unpleasant episode, incident to the [illegible]

[illegible] fully, and in bringing that which is
in good order to pass. [illegible] fact, it would be more correct to say that
[illegible] a [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] for a [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] the heart of the individual.
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] for existing circumstances. Circumstances
[illegible] by the [illegible]

indicate means and manner of

that many children, before being sent to

[illegible] day, a group of my younger

[illegible] grown up women, and a

[illegible] fields in the woods corner of my school room. Of course,

[illegible] consisted principally of

engaged in observing their

mother told her daughter that

[illegible] merited. Punishment when administered [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible], or the [illegible] of either [illegible], [illegible] of a sentence which has been [illegible] the school will seldom fail of accomplishing the desired [illegible].

Let the pupils be subject in school to the same laws which should govern them [illegible] of their coming years. [illegible] will be most influential [illegible] outlined, if constantly persevered in with patience, [illegible] do, will continually [illegible] in well-doing and will [illegible] [illegible]ible growth of the [illegible], and there will gradually [illegible]

pressid by the other plan, but as it begins within and produces cure of the disposition to waywardness instead of a mere supression of its outcroppings, it is progressive, grows continually easier, and gives finally to the faithful teacher such frequent surprises of symmetry, moral strength, and sweetness of character in his pupils, as surely to make these the greatest rewards of his profession.

Finis.

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